

Indiana Trails Fund, Inc.

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31 March 2004

Mr Vernon Williams Secretary Surface Transportation Board Mercury Building, #100 1925 K Stree, N.W. Washington, DC 20423-0001





RE: Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 168X):

Decided 26 April 1996, to abandon (railbank) 38.4 miles of rail line between milepost I-57.2 at or near Kokomo, and milepost I-95.6 at or near Rochester, in Howard, Miami, and Fulton Cos; and

Decided 8 March 2004, to railbank 20.1 miles of rail line between milepost I-75.5 near Peru, and milepost I-95.6 at or near Rochester, in Miami, and Fulton Cos.

Secretary Williams:

The Indiana Trails Fund thanks the STB for modifying to the extent necessary to implement interim trail use/railbanking as set forth, below, for the portion of the line extending between milepost I-75.5 near Peru, and milepost I-95.6 at or near Rochester, for a period of 180 days from the service date (March 10, 2004) of this decision and notice (until September 6, 2004).

The Indiana Trails Fund hereby states that it now is assuming (and has since accepting deeds in 1999) full responsibility for the management of that portion of the line extending between milepost I-75.5 near Peru, and milepost I-95.6 at or near Rochester. Further, ITF has and continues to pay taxes which are levied against this right-of-way.

Indiana Trails Fund states that it has reached an agreement for interim trail use/railbanking with Norfolk Southern (Norfolk & Western) Railroad. Norfolk has removed its personal property (rails, ties, and other track stuff), and delivered three deeds (dated January 21, 1999) specifying the Unites States Code, a description of this right-of-way, and other pertinent information. Further, ITF has paid consideration for the three deeds, has accepted the them (and recorded each in the appropriate county), and both has carried out and is carrying out due diligence and management of this line, including interim trail use by opening sections to the public for walking.

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In addition, ITF understands that this interim trail use/railbanking is subject to the future restoration of rail service and to continuing to meet the financial obligations for the right-of-way.

Also, ITF understands that in the event of termination of this interim trail use/railbanking agreement, The Fund must send to the Board a copy of this decision and notice and request that it be vacated on a specified date.

These considered, Indiana Trails Fund now states that it accepts and conforms to the interim trail use/railbanking as specified, and thereby the terms of interim trail use/railbanking by the Surface Transportation Board are being implemented.

Appreciatively,

Richard Vonnegut, President, and on behalf of the Indiana Trails Fund

cc:

Mr. James Paschall Legal Department Norfolk Southern RR 3 Commercial Place Norfolk, VA 23510-2191